

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00939 021235Z

53

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-03 PRS-01 L-01 IO-03 SAM-01

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R 021158Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0746

CNFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0288

AMCONSUL DHARAHAN

AMEMSSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

CINCUSNAVEUR

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LIMDIS

E.O 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR TC

SUBJ: U.S. POLICY TOWARD "GULF SECURITY"

REF: ABU DHABI 1581

1. FROM QATARI PERSPECTIVE, WE ENDORSE AMBASSADOR STERNER'S RECECOMMENDATION THAT USG ACCEDE TO BAHRAIN REQUEST AND RETIRE MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE GRACIOUSLY IN TIME FRAME SPECIFIED. MUCH OF REFTEL'S RATIONALE APPLIES HERE TOO. BASICALLY GOQ ALSO HAS SURMOUNTED ITS INITIAL APPREHENSIONS THAT BRITISH WITHDRAWAL WOULD CREATE DANGEROUS VACUUM AND, THEREFORE, US NAVAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DOHA 00939 021235Z

PRESENCE TACITLY WAS WELCOMED BY THIS CONSERVATIVE GOVT. HOWEVER,

GROWING SELF-CONFIDENCE AND RECENT ACCELERATING MOVES TOWARD REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WILL CAUSE GOQ TO GO ALONG WITH DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL OF "FOREIGN" MILITARY PRESENCES. INDICATIVE OF THIS GOQ ATTITUDE WAS AMIR'S AVOIDANCE OF MY DIRECT QUESTION DURING RECENT CONVERSATION RE HIS POSITION ON MIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN (DOHA 0691). IN ADDITION, GOQ DECLINED TO PERMIT VESSEL FROM MIDEASTFOR TO VISIT DOHA, ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC RATHER THAN GENERAL REASON CITED AT T P TIME (DOHA 0112). (ALL THIS BEING SAID, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE NOT RPT NOT FULLY INFORMED ON EXCHANGES BETWEEN GOB AND USG ON TENURE OF QMIDEASTFOR.)

2. WE ALSO SUPPORT ABU DHABI'S RECOMMENDATION THAT SECRETARY OR OTHER HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION FAVORABLY AND PUBLICLY PROGRESS IN GULF TOWARD POLITICAL STABILITY AND REGIONAL COOPERATION, BACKED WITH OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL PROJECTS. THIS WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED IN THESE SMALL COUNTRIES, WHICH HUNGER FOR RECOGNITION AND NOTICE. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD ALSO HELP REMOVE LINGERING BITTERNESS FROM ALLEGED INVASION THREATS DIRECTED AT AREA STATES IN PAST MONTHS BY SENIOR USG OFFICIALS.

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